

DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN IN EUROPEAN PROJECTS – METHODOLOGY AND TEST CASES IN NANOTECHNOLOGY COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

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ABSTRACT

Data management is emerging as a key aspect in European research projects that is linked to the exploitation of research results. Traditionally, academic institutions focused on basic research to improve science and the exploitation of research results was through publishing in scientific journals. On the other hand, industries used to focus on applied research to improve the company value and the exploitation of their research results was through patenting. In current times, the boundaries between academic and industrial exploitation of research results are blurred. Patent filing has become popular in academia and industries have taken interest in basic research hoping to take advantage of emerging technologies.

In order to boost economic growth, the European Commission (EC) is seeking to empower collaborations between European industries and academic institutions in research projects; however, the results from these projects are lost with time due to inefficient data management. For example, experimental data kept in the private computer of a PhD student may not be available after the student has graduated. This situation results in work that is not exploited further, in duplication of work, and unnecessary spending of research funds. The EC is therefore pushing for the creation of a uniform system for data storage that facilitates tracking of data through the use of peripheral information (metadata).

Here, the main principles and methodology for data management in European projects will be discussed and examples will be given from EU-funded collaborative projects that aim to develop novel nano-enabled products, or to utilize nanotechnological solutions to industrial and societal challenges. The projects consortiums consist of universities, research organizations, and industries from the healthcare, electroplating, environmental, automotive, aeronautic, and infrastructure sectors. The inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary nature of these projects creates a dynamic environment where data management principles can be tested and advanced.